

**Governing Iowa's public
universities and special schools**

University of Iowa
Iowa State University
University of Northern Iowa
Iowa School for the Deaf
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School
Lakeside Lab Regents Resource Center
Quad-Cities Graduate Center
Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center
Tri-State Graduate Center



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Robert Donley, *Executive Director*

February 27, 2012

Honorable Kraig Paulsen
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

RE: Malcolm Price Laboratory School Closing

Dear Speaker Paulsen:

Pursuant to Board authority under Iowa Code section 265.1, UNI has for many years operated the Malcolm Price Laboratory School. The School has provided an excellent education for pre-K -12 students, as well as supported clinical experiences for the UNI teacher education program. It is one of the few remaining laboratory schools in the country supported by a university.

During the past four years of budget reductions, the university has reexamined every aspect of its operations and programs to become more focused and strategic with its resources. The University of Northern Iowa has come to a point, as have many institutions, where it is no longer financially feasible for the university to operate its own school and subsidize instruction for elementary/secondary education. The financial issue is exacerbated by an aging building which a consultant estimated would cost \$30 million to replace. Instead UNI's strategic priority is best served by focusing resources on its undergraduate teacher education and the supporting academic programs.

As a result, President Ben Allen recommended to the Board that the Malcolm Price Laboratory School be closed effective June 30, 2012.

Today, the Board approved President Allen's recommendation.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Lang
President
Board of Regents, State of Iowa

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February 27, 2012

The Honorable Terry Branstad, Governor
State of Iowa
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Malcolm Price Laboratory School Closing

Dear Governor Branstad:

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Robert Donley, *Executive Director*

February 27, 2012

Honorable John P. Kibbie
President of the Senate
Iowa Senate
State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

RE: Malcolm Price Laboratory School Closing

Dear Senator Kibbie:

Pursuant to Board authority under Iowa Code section 265.1, UNI has for many years operated the Malcolm Price Laboratory School. The School has provided an excellent education for pre-K -12 students, as well as supported clinical experiences for the UNI teacher education program. It is one of the few remaining laboratory schools in the country supported by a university.

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Craig A. Lang
President
Board of Regents, State of Iowa

President Lang Remarks on Price Laboratory School

Board of Regents Meeting

February 27, 2012

Before the Board begins its consideration of the recommendation in the agenda item, I would first like to extend thanks to the countless number of Iowans – students, parents, teachers, alumni, community members and others – who have expressed to the Board their thoughtful and passionate views about the Price Laboratory School at UNI. We have read your emails, listened to your phone calls, and watched in the news and social media your many efforts in response to President Allen’s announcement last week. Your outpouring of strength and concern is a great testament to the university.

As we begin our meeting today, it is important to accept two critical realities.

First, these are difficult times at the University of Northern Iowa.

State budget cuts of recent years have provided enormous challenges at UNI and President Allen has responded by making difficult choices in the name of high quality programs, operational efficiencies, and sustaining the excellence of the university.

While both the Board of Regents and President Allen are extremely proud that Iowa students represent 92% of UNI's enrollment, and that currently 75% of UNI graduates are working in Iowa, the low percentage of nonresident students substantially hampers the university's revenues. This has been an ongoing challenge for President Allen.

The second reality is that despite the tough times at UNI, President Allen is committed to keeping the university sustainable and strong.

He has proven that he has the critical vision to balance innovation with fiscal responsibility. He will continue to pursue alternative and innovative models to strengthen the university despite serious funding limitations. Ben is committed to retaining and enhancing UNI's status as a leader in education, regardless of budget restraints.

President Allen is an outstanding president. He is leading the university in a manner consistent with the expectations of the Board of Regents and the expectations of Iowans. Once again, this includes his emphasis on high quality programs, cost-effective operations, and sustaining the University's excellence. This is at the core of President Allen's recommendations unveiled last week.

Whatever the outcome of today's vote, President Allen will need critical time to make necessary adjustments before this fiscal year ends on June 30. With that in mind, the Board has called this meeting today.

We are at a critical point for UNI, and neither President Allen nor the Board has all of the answers. However, the Board has full confidence in President Allen and his continuing commitment to the hard work and the difficult, strategic and courageous decisions that lie ahead.

The future of the University of Northern Iowa is in excellent hands.